

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1617

To promote preservation and public awareness of the history of the Underground Railroad by providing financial assistance, to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 22, 1999

Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. McCONNELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To promote preservation and public awareness of the history of the Underground Railroad by providing financial assistance, to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Underground
5 Railroad Freedom Center Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) the National Underground Railroad Free-
2 dom Center (hereinafter “Freedom Center”) was
3 founded in 1995;

4 (2) the objectives of the Freedom Center are to
5 interpret the history of the Underground Railroad
6 through development of a national cultural institu-
7 tion in Cincinnati, Ohio, that will house an interpre-
8 tive center, including museum, educational, and re-
9 search facilities, all dedicated to communicating to
10 the public the importance of the quest for human
11 freedom which provided the foundation for the his-
12 toric and inspiring story of the Underground Rail-
13 road;

14 (3) the city of Cincinnati has granted exclusive
15 development rights for a prime riverfront location to
16 the Freedom Center;

17 (4) the Freedom Center will be a national cen-
18 ter linked through state-of-the-art technology to Un-
19 derground Railroad sites and facilities throughout
20 the United States and to a constituency that reaches
21 across the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Car-
22 ibbean and beyond; and

23 (5) the Freedom Center has reached an agree-
24 ment with the National Park Service to pursue a
25 range of historical and educational cooperative ac-

1 tivities related to the Underground Railroad, includ-
2 ing but not limited to assisting the National Park
3 Service in the implementation of the National Un-
4 derground Railroad Network to Freedom Act.

5 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

6 (1) to promote preservation and public aware-
7 ness of the history of the Underground Railroad;

8 (2) to assist the Freedom Center in the develop-
9 ment of its programs and facilities in Cincinnati,
10 Ohio; and

11 (3) to assist the National Park Service in the
12 implementation of the National Underground Rail-
13 road Network to Freedom Act (16 U.S.C. 469l).

14 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

16 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of the Interior.

18 (2) PROJECT BUDGET.—The term “project
19 budget” means the total amount of funds expended
20 by the Freedom Center on construction of its facil-
21 ity, development of its programs and exhibits, re-
22 search, collection of informative and educational ac-
23 tivities related to the history of the Underground
24 Railroad, and any administrative activities necessary
25 to the operation of the Freedom Center, prior to the

1 opening of the Freedom Center facility in Cin-
 2 cinnati, Ohio.

3 (3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The term “Federal
 4 share” means an amount not to exceed 20 percent
 5 of the project budget and shall include all amounts
 6 received from the Federal Government under this
 7 legislation and any other Federal programs.

8 (4) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The term “non-
 9 Federal share” means all amounts obtained by the
 10 Freedom Center for the implementation of its facili-
 11 ties and programs from any source other than the
 12 Federal Government, and shall not be less than 80
 13 percent of the project budget.

14 (5) THE FREEDOM CENTER FACILITY.—The
 15 term “the Freedom Center facility” means the facil-
 16 ity, including the building and surrounding site,
 17 which will house the museum and research institute
 18 to be constructed and developed in Cincinnati, Ohio,
 19 on the site described in section 4(c).

20 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From sums appro-
 22 priated pursuant to the authority of subsection (d) in any
 23 fiscal year, the Secretary is authorized and directed to pro-
 24 vide financial assistance to the Freedom Center, in order

1 to pay the Federal share of the cost of authorized activities
2 described in section 5.

3 (b) EXPENDITURE ON NON-FEDERAL PROPERTY.—

4 The Secretary is authorized to expend appropriated funds
5 under subsection (a) of this section to assist in the con-
6 struction of the Freedom Center facility and the develop-
7 ment of programs and exhibits for that facility which will
8 be funded primarily through private and non-Federal
9 funds, on property owned by the city of Cincinnati, Ham-
10 ilton County, and the State of Ohio.

11 (c) DESCRIPTION OF THE FREEDOM CENTER FACIL-

12 ITY SITE.—The facility referred to in subsections (a) and
13 (b) will be located on a site described as follows: a 2-block
14 area south of new South Second, west of Walnut Street,
15 north of relocated Theodore M. Berry Way, and east of
16 Vine Street in Cincinnati, Ohio.

17 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There

18 are authorized to be appropriated \$16,000,000 for the 4
19 fiscal year period beginning October 1, 1999. Funds not
20 to exceed that total amount may be appropriated in 1 or
21 more of such fiscal years. Funds shall not be disbursed
22 until the Freedom Center has commitments for a min-
23 imum of 50 percent of the non-Federal share.

24 (e) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any

25 other provision of law, funds appropriated to carry out the

1 provisions of this Act shall remain available for obligation
2 and expenditure until the end of the fiscal year succeeding
3 the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated.

4 (f) NPS EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary is authorized
5 to use employees of the National Park Service to carry
6 out any agreement entered into between the Freedom Cen-
7 ter and the Secretary with respect to activities authorized
8 under section 5.

9 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Freedom Center may engage
11 in any activity related to its objectives addressed in section
12 2(a), including, but not limited to, construction of the
13 Freedom Center facility, development of programs and ex-
14 hibits related to the history of the Underground Railroad,
15 research, collection of information and artifacts and edu-
16 cational activities related to the history of the Under-
17 ground Railroad, and any administrative activities nec-
18 essary to the operation of the Freedom Center.

19 (b) PRIORITIES.—The Freedom Center shall give pri-
20 ority to—

- 21 (1) construction of the Freedom Center facility;
- 22 (2) development of programs and exhibits to be
- 23 presented in or from the Freedom Center facility;
- 24 and

1 (3) providing assistance to the National Park
2 Service in the implementation of the National Un-
3 derground Railroad Network to Freedom Act (16
4 U.S.C. 469l).

5 **SEC. 6. APPLICATION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Freedom Center shall submit
7 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
8 ner, and containing or accompanied by such information
9 as the Secretary may reasonably require. Each application
10 shall—

11 (1) describe the activities for which assistance
12 is sought;

13 (2) provide assurances that the non-Federal
14 share of the cost of activities of the Freedom Center
15 shall be paid from non-Federal sources, together
16 with an accounting of costs expended by the Free-
17 dom Center to date, a budget of costs to be incurred
18 prior to the opening of the Freedom Center facility,
19 an accounting of funds raised to date, both Federal
20 and non-Federal, and a projection of funds to be
21 raised through the completion of the Freedom Cen-
22 ter facility.

23 (b) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve the ap-
24 plication submitted pursuant to subsection (a) unless such
25 application fails to comply with the provisions of this Act.

1 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

2 The Freedom Center shall submit an annual report
3 to the appropriate committees of the Congress not later
4 than January 31, 2000, and each succeeding year there-
5 after for any fiscal year in which Federal funds are ex-
6 pended pursuant to this Act. The report shall—

7 (1) include a financial statement addressing the
8 Freedom Center's costs incurred to date and pro-
9 jected costs, and funds raised to date and projected
10 fundraising goals;

11 (2) include a comprehensive and detailed de-
12 scription of the Freedom Center's activities for the
13 preceding and succeeding fiscal years; and

14 (3) include a description of the activities taken
15 to assure compliance with this Act.

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